

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00508 161441 Z

52

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

NSC-10 SS-15 L-03 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4584

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0508

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ETRN, EI

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - DUBLIN LANDING RIGHTS

1. AMBASSADOR AND DCM WERE CALLED TO THE FONOFF FRIDAY EVENING BY FONMIN FITZGERALD AND PERMSEC MCCANN FOR DISCUSSION ON LANDING RIGHTS QUESTION.

2. WE HAD ALREADY LEARNED THAT LANDING RIGHTS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED EARLIER FRIDAY IN MEETING OF THE CABINET AND THIS WAS QUITE MANIFEST IN THE APPROACH TAKEN BY FONMIN FITZGERALD, WHO REVIEWED THE QUESTION CANDIDLY AND SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ANXIOUS TO SETTLE THIS QUESTION IN AN AMICABLE WAY.

3. DR. FITZGERALD MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THE COSGRAVE GOVT FEELS IT HAS THE SAME PROBLEM AS THE LYNCH GOVT HAD BEFORE IT, WHICH IS THAT IT FACES SERIOUS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES IF IT CONCEDES DUBLIN LANDING RIGHTS WITHOUT WHAT FORMER PRIMIN LYNCH CALLED A "FIG LEAF" TO HIDE ITS SHAME. FITZGERALD TOOK FULL NOTE OF OUR ARGUMENTS THAT SHANNON STOPS, DUBLIN TURN- AROUND, SINGLE CARRIER ACCESS, AND RESTORATION OF NEW YORK RIGHTS ARE IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS.

HOWEVER, HE AKSED US WITH CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS TO RECOGNIZE THAT, IN THE EYES OF THE IRISH PUBLIC WITH WHICH GOI HAS TO CONTEND, THESE ARE SIMPLY REDUCTIONS IN OUR INITIAL DEMANDS AND DO NOT REPRESENT ANYTHING GAINED BY IRELAND AS AN OFFSET TO THE BIG BASIC
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00508 161441 Z

CONCESSION, WHICH IS DUBLIN RIGHTS. HE STRESSED THAT FOR IRISH TO BE FORCED TO SURRENDER TO THREAT OF UNITED STATES USE OF ITS ECONOMIC POWER WOULD NOT ONLY BE DAMAGING POLITICALLY BUT WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO FRIENDLY WESTERN COUNTRIES.

4. ACCORDINGLY, HE IMPORED US TO CONSENT TO SOME APPARENT OFFSETTING CONCESSION, HOWEVER SMALL, WHICH COULD BE PRESENTED AS AN OPTICAL QUID PRO QUO. SPECIFICALLY, HE ASKED US TO CONSIDER ACCEPTING FROM GOI A GUARANTEE OF OFFROUTE CHARTER ACCESS INTO IRELAND FOR AMERICAN SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS IN EXCHANGE FOR IRISH CHARTER ACCESS TO A REDUCED NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIES (HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC ON THIS BUT IN EMBASSY JUDGEMENT CHARTER RIGHTS TO COMPETE AT SAN FRANCISCO/ LOS ANGELES OR PHILADELPHIA/ WASHINGTON WOULD SUFFICE). HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A DEAL WOULD SAVE GOI' S FACE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MEETING OUR REQUIREMENTS THAT SCHEDULED AND CHARTER PACKAGES MUST BE KEPT SEPARATE.

5. EMBASSY OPINION IS WE SHOULD OFFER SOME CONCESSION ALONG LINES OF PRECEDING PARAGRAPH AND THEREBY GAIN IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO DUBLIN. ALTERNATIVE COULD BE TO INVITE FURTHER COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS THE GOI SEEKING ANOTHER WASHINGTON MEETING AT HIGHEST LEVEL OR SOME OTHER MOVE WHICH COULD RESULT IN DELAY.
MOORE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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